



Dept of Water
Affairs & Forestry



SALGA
South African Local Government Association

Learning through Collaboration in the Water Sector



Strategic Assessment of WIN and its future role in the Water Sector (2008-2012)

Background

- Knowledge sharing and its benefits to improved service delivery remains a critical challenge for the water sector to tackle in the coming five years.
- There is a need to shift from the thinking that knowledge is power, and therefore needs to be closely guarded
- Growth and development happens in an environment that promotes openness to knowledge sharing
- Enabling environment for practitioners to share ideas, learn from each other's challenges and improve the quality of service delivered to communities.

Background cont.

- The mandate given to WIN was to “*promote best practice and knowledge sharing in order to ensure effective water services delivery*”.
- WSLG gave the mandate to manage WIN to the Water Research Commission and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.
- WSLG created a Strategic Advisory Committee to ensure that WIN delivers on its mandate and to give overall strategic guidance to WIN.
- WIN has been operational from 2004 and it is housed, managed and accounted for by the Water Research Commission.
- It receives its funds through DWAF, and the funds are from the Water Sector Support Programme (Masibambane): Building Capacity for Local Government knowledge sharing

Progress to date

- Since its conceptualisation and operation, WIN has been a knowledge network that focuses only on water services.
- It has made an impact in the water services sector through its various publications, approaches and methodologies to knowledge sharing.
- WIN has undoubtedly contributed to shifting the way the sector approached knowledge sharing before its inception.
- The WIN Lessons Series is seen as a value adding product by local government, so are the learning journeys and the portal.
- Civil society has embarked on a full scale programme to improve knowledge sharing adopting WIN methodologies.
- Enabling learning in knowledge sharing forums: eg DWSMF
- Various Directorates in DWAF, namely Sanitation and Transfers are already using WIN models to strengthen their own knowledge sharing capabilities.
- Currently, there is an openness to learning and sharing

Need for change

- Despite its successes and gains in water services, WIN needs to evolve, and
- respond to the sector imperatives such as the integration of water services and water resources, water for growth and sustainable development.
- In order to achieve the above, there is a need to evaluate WIN's connection to the broader water knowledge environment (locally and internationally).
- DWAF Minister: request for a knowledge hub
- There is a need to scope areas and parameters for WIN's growth and sustainability

Aims of the study

- A strategic analysis of WIN's future role and responses to the evolving water scenario.
- To assess options for appropriate funding, hosting, capacity, governance and institutional arrangements
- To review and determine WIN's effectiveness and impact
- To develop an appropriate sustainability plan for WIN

Proposed Process

- Approval of ToR by DWAF and WRC
- Comments on ToR and approval by WIN-SAC
- Presentation of initial findings to SAC: April 08
- Presentation of draft report to WSLG: June 08
- Finalisation of process & recommendations for implementation July 08

Upcoming Events

- Workshop on promoting an understanding of IWRM: for local government: DWSMF- 27-28 Feb 08
- CSO Knowledge Sharing Conference: Mvula/WIN/SAWC- 4&5 March 08
- Learning Journey for Uganda Water Regulators- April 08
- Learning Journey South African CSOs to Zambian water sector-April 08